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Carey, Wm.

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Morrison, Robt.



ROBERT MORRISON.

**ROBERT MORRISON,\*****The Great Chinese Missionary.**

Mr. Morrison was born at Morpeth, England, January 15, 1782. His parents were Scotch. He became an apprentice at an early age to his father, who was a maker of lasts and boot-trees. He devoted his leisure time to close study, but had his book open before him while he worked, and removed his bed to his workshop, that he might study late into the night. At the age of 15 he joined the Scotch Church. As early as 1801 he began the study of Latin, Hebrew and theology with the minister of Newcastle, and after fourteen months' study entered the Independent Theological Academy

at Hoxon, to prepare for the ministry. Soon after his admission he decided to become a missionary to the heathen. In May, 1804, he offered himself to the London Missionary Society, was accepted, and appointed its first missionary to China. He was ordained and sailed for China, January 31, 1807, but the Chinese being hostile to the English on account of the opium difficulties, was obliged to bid new instead of going direct from London. He reached Canton on September 7th; he secured lodgings in the basement story of an American factory used as a wareroom, but soon he removed to more comfortable quarters. At first he adopted the Chinese dress, diet and habits, but soon resumed his usual mode of life. Mr. Morrison

\*See Encyclopedia of Missions, E. M. Bliss.



set himself at once to study the language and translate the Bible. In 1809 he married the daughter of an Englishman named Martin, and on the same day he was offered the position of translator to the East India Company's factory at Canton. He accepted, and held it to the day of his death, twenty-five years. He found time for Bible translation and preparation of religious books. In 1810 his translation of the Acts of the Apostles was printed, being the first portion of the Scriptures in Chinese printed by any Protestant missionary. In 1812 the Gospel of John was printed, and so continued his translation till the whole Bible was translated into the Chinese language.

His most laborious literary work was the Chinese dictionary, published in 1821 by the East India Company at an expense of £15,000. In 1824 he visited England and aroused much interest in missions. In 1826 he married Miss Armstrong, of Liverpool, embarked for China, and continued his work in China for nine years more. He devoted more of his time to missionary work and translation. In 1832 he wrote: "I have been twenty-five years in China and am now beginning to see the work prosper. By the press we have been able to scatter knowledge far and wide." He accompanied Lord Nepier as an interpreter to Canton and died there August 1, 1834. His remains were taken to Macao, and buried. So ended the active work of one of the greatest linguists that ever landed in China.

### WILLIAM CAREY.\*

This great Indian missionary was born at Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, England, August 17, 1761. In his youth he worked with his father, who was a

weaver, but at the age of 16 was apprenticed to a shoemaker at Hackleton, working at the trade for twelve years. At the age of 18 he was led, through the influence of a pious fellow-apprentice, to accept of Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour, and soon after he began to preach the gospel. In 1786 he became a pastor of the Baptist Church at Moulton, having previously preached in his native town and at Barton.

His income being too small for the support of his family, he kept school by day, made or cobbled shoes by night and preached on Sunday. At Moulton he was deeply impressed with the idea of a mission to the heathen, and frequently conversed with ministers on its importance and his willingness to engage in it.

From his ministerial brethren he received no sympathy. While at Moulton he wrote and published "An Inquiry Into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for The Conversion of The Heathen." In 1789, he became pastor of the church at Leicester. At a meeting of the Minister's Association at Nottingham, May 31, 1792, he preached from: "Enlarge the place of thy tent" (Isa. 54: 2, 3), laying down these two propositions: "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God." The discourse produced a great impression, and the result was, through the special cooperation of Revs. Fuller, Pearce and Ryland, the formation at Rettering, October 2, 1793, of the Baptist Missionary Society. Carey's first wish was to work in Tahiti or Western Africa, but he offered to go wherever the Society might appoint him. India was selected for his first mission, and he was appointed, with John Thomas, a surgeon, who had resided in Bengal, and engaged in missionary work. Carey

\*See Encyclopedia of Missions.





WILLIAM CAREY.

reached Calcutta November 11, 1793. Leaving Calcutta, he walked fifteen miles in the sun, passing through salt rivers and a large lake, to the Sunderlands, a tract scantily populated, and notorious for pestilence and wild beasts. Here he was offered the superintendence of an indigo factory by a Mr. Udney, a friend of missions. He accepted the offer and the factory became the mission station. During the five years he spent here he translated the New Testament into Bengali, held daily religious services with the thousands working in the factory, itinerated regularly through the district, twenty miles square and containing 200 villages. His first convert was Ignatius Fernandez, of Portu-

guese descent. He built a church in 1797, preached and labored as a missionary. About 1801, he became professor of Sanskrit, Bengali, and Marathi. This position he held for thirty years and taught these languages. He wrote articles on the natural history and botany of India for the Asiatic Society, to which he was elected in 1805. The publication of the entire Bible in Bengali in five volumes was completed in 1809. That which gave Carey his fame was the translation of the Bible, in whole or in part, into twenty-four Indian languages, or dialects. The Sevampore press, under his direction, rendered the Bible accessible to more than 300,000,000 of human beings. Dr.